



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

AW

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/623,897	09/11/2000	Martin Peller	951/49164	9568

7590 11/03/2003

CROWELL & MORING LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
P.O. BOX 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300

EXAMINER

DEBERADINIS, ROBERT L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2836

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/623,897

Applicant(s)

PELLER, MARTIN

Examiner

Robert DeBeradinis

Art Unit

2836

AW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2836

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The preliminary amendment filed 9/11/00 consists of cancellation of claims 1, 2, addition of new claims 3-6 and a substitute specification.

The amendment has been entered including the substitute specification.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains more than 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the drawings require translation, the boxes must include their functional names. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TAKAHASHI 4,644,587 in view of NOBUHARA 5,955,921 and ISLAM 5,101,456.

Regarding claims 3-6.

Art Unit: 2836

TAKAHASHI discloses a data bus arrangement (figure 4) for connecting a plurality of nodes (432, 442) to one another, said arrangement comprising:

A logic decision gate (514) having a plurality of inputs (570-1...570-n) for receiving a corresponding plurality of first electrical signals routed from said plurality of nodes wherein an output of the logical decision gate is connected in parallel to provide second electrical output signals (580-1...580-n) routed to each of said plurality of nodes;

At least one opto-electric transducer (502) connected between one of said nodes (570-1) and one of said inputs of said logic decision gate (514) wherein the output of said logic decision gate is fed to an electrical input of each said opto-electric transducer (518);

TAKAHASHI does not disclose a signal conditioning circuit arranged between said logical decision gate and the inputs of said nodes (580) in order to provide a pulse shaping function for the output signal of said logical decision gate.

NOBUHARA teaches that a pulse signal is distorted in an optically coupled receiver due to an input offset (threshold). (column1, lines 5-10)

ISLAM teaches pre-distortion for distorting data signal pulse to change shape of pulse (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of this invention to provide a signal conditioning circuit arranged between said logical decision gate and the inputs of said nodes (580) in order to provide a pulse shaping function for the output signal of said logical decision gate. The motivation would be to

Art Unit: 2836

compensate for the pulse width change due to the threshold of the opto-transducer
(NOBUHARA, abstract).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert L.
DeBeradinis whose number is (703) 306- 5857. The Examiner can normally be reached
Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's
supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on (703) 308-3119. The Fax phone number for
this Group is (703) 308-7722.

RLD

OCTOBER 29, 2003

